

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIGURES 8 and 12-13.

Attachment: Replacement sheet FIGURES 8 and 12-13

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-20 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. A substitute specification including a marked-up version and a clean version has been submitted herewith. Applicant draws the attention of the Examiner to the fact that the substitute specification submitted herewith does not include the claims and the Abstract. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference character(s) not mentioned in the description. The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show a gas-tight inner skin as described in the specification description of Figure 8. The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "17" has been used to designate both the unnamed item in Figure 8 and a gondola in Figures 12-13. The drawings stand objected to because the type of projection in Figure 9 is unclear and not designated within the specification. In response, Applicant has amended the specification and Figures 8 and 12-13 to overcome the drawing objections. Withdrawal of the objection of the drawings is respectfully requested.

The specification stands objected to for some informalities. In response, Applicant has amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner. A substitute specification including a marked-up version and a clean version has been submitted herewith. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection of the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1-19 to provide further clarification as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 14-16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0157322 to Pedretti et al. (“Pedretti”).

Independent claim 1 relates to a lifting body for an airship. Applicant respectfully submits that Pedretti fails to disclose at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 1, namely, at least one node element, wherein a first node element of the at least one node element is attached to a nose region of the lifting body and a second node element of the at least one node element is attached to a rear region of the lifting body, wherein the nose and rear regions of the lifting body are *non-symmetrical*.

Pedretti discloses an elongate, essentially cylindrical hollow body inflated with compressed air. Axial ends of the cylindrical hollow body comprises caps. The axial ends of the of the cylindrical body of Pedretti as illustrated in Figures 1a-1b, 2, 5-6, 8a-8b, and 10 are symmetrical. In contrast, according to independent claim 1, the nose and rear regions of the lifting body are *non-symmetrical*. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 distinguishes over Pedretti and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, and 14-16 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, and 14-16 distinguish over Pedretti and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 20 relates to a method of lifting a lifting body for an airship. Applicant respectfully submits that Pedretti fails to disclose at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 20, namely, providing an airship with non-symmetrical nose and rear regions. Applicant submits that independent claim 20 patentably distinguish over Pedretti for similar reasons to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1 and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pedretti in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,056,240 to Hagenlocher (“Hagenlocher”). Dependent claim 5 depends from and further restricts independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully

submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claim 5 distinguishes over Pedretti. Hagenlocher fails to cure the deficiencies of Pedretti noted above. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 5 is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pedretti in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,207 to Bell ("Bell"). Dependent claims 10-13 and 18 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 10-13 and 18 distinguish over Pedretti. Bell fails to cure the deficiencies of Pedretti noted above. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 10-13 and 18 is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pedretti in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,788,595 to Ross ("Ross"). Dependent claim 17 depends from and further restricts independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claim 17 distinguishes over Pedretti. Ross fails to cure the deficiencies of Pedretti noted above. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 17 is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pedretti and Bell and further in view of WO 2004/001163. Dependent claim 19 depends from and further restricts independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claim 19 distinguishes over the combination of Pedretti and Bell. WO 2004/001163 fails to cure the deficiencies of Pedretti and Bell noted above. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 19 is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments